

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150678

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PGOV, PEPR, CY

SUBJECT:KYPRIANOU VISIT TO WASHINGTON, JUNE 7-8

1. IN TWENTY-FOUR HOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON JUNE 7-8, CYPRUS
PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT AHEPA DINNER, MET
IN CLOSED SESSION WITH BOTH HIRC AND SFRC, AND HAD ONE-HOUR
PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON JUNE
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9, KYPRIANOU SPOKE WITH PRESIDENT BY TELEPHONE FROM NEW YORK.

2. AT JUNE 8 MEETING WITH HIRC, WHICH WAS WELL ATTENDED,
KYPRIANOU EXPECTEDLY PRESSED HARD FOR MAINTENANCE OF EMBARGO.
HE ARGUED THAT REPEAL WOULD NOT ONLY BE MORALLY WRONG AND
LEAD TO INCREASED INTERNATIONAL DISREGARD FOR THE RULE OF
LAW, BUT WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE AND

HENCE PERPETUATE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND WOULD CAUSE GRAVE DETERIORATION IN U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS. HE PREDICTED TURKISH PROVOCATIONS IN THE AEGEAN WERE THE EMBARGO TO BE LIFTED, AND STRESSED THAT TURKEY, IN CONTRAST TO GREECE, WAS AN UNRELIABLE ALLY. KYPRIANOU SOUGHT TO PORTRAY HIMSELF AS READY AND WILLING TO TAKE NEW INITIATIVES FOR SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS DISPUTE, CITING HIS EFFORTS TO MEET WITH ECEVIT FOR THOROUGH-GOING DISCUSSIONS AND HIS PROPOSAL MADE AT THE SSOD FOR THE COMPLETE DEMILITARIZATION OF CYPRUS. BY CONTRAST HE PAINTED ECEVIT AS INTRANSIGENT AND UNYIELDING, AS EVIDENCED BY THE LATTER'S REJECTION OF HIS OFFERS FOR A BILATERAL MEETING.

KYPRIANOU ALSO DWELT HEAVILY ON WHAT HE TERMED GROWING OPPOSITION TO DENKTASH WITHIN THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY, CITING THE RECENT COMPLAINTS BY KUCHUK AND BY THE TURKISH CYPRIOT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AGAINST THE PRESENCE OF TURKISH SETTLERS. KYPRIANOU CLAIMED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, NOT ONLY LEGALLY BUT ALSO IN FACT.

3. QUESTIONING IN THE HIRC SESSION WAS LIVELY AND FORTHRIGHT, CENTERING ON KYPRIANOU'S OWN REFUSAL TO MEET WITH DENKTASH, HIS REASONS FOR COMPLETELY REJECTING THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS OF APRIL 13, AND POSSIBLE GREEK CYPRIOT IDEAS FOR BREAKING THE DEADLOCK. KYPRIANOU RESPONDED ALONG STANDARD LINES. INTERESTING WAS HIS ATTEMPT TO DOWNGRADE CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MAKARIOS-DENKTASH UNDERSTANDINGS OF FEBRUARY 1977, AND HIS ASSERTION THAT MAKARIOS HAD HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THOSE UNDERSTANDINGS AFTER THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAD FAILED IN APRIL 1977 TO PRODUCE AN ACCEPTABLE PROPOSAL. IN HIS SUMMATION, CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI EMPHASIZED THE SERIOUS CONCERN IN THE CONGRESS OVER THE DECLINING EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO, AND SOUGHT TO ASSURE KYPRIANOU THAT REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO WOULD NOT MEAN THAT THE U.S. WAS TILTING IN FAVOR OF TURKEY AGAINST GREECE OR THAT OUR INTEREST IN A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT HAD DIMINISHED.

4. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING HIRC SESSION KYPRIANOU ADDRESSED FAMILIAR THEMES, IF DELIVERED IN STARK AND SOMEWHAT ALARMIST TONES. REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO, HE DECLARED, WOULD LEAD TO A NEW CYPRUS CRISIS, WOULD BE A "SIGNAL FOR INTERNATIONAL DISORDER AND LAWLESSNESS," AND WOULD INDICATE THE U.S. WAS SANCTIONING AND LEGALIZING THE "TURKISH INVASION." KYPRIANOU ASSERTED THAT THE "CYPRUS CRISIS" WAS AT A STAGE WHEN "SOMETHING RADICAL" MUST BE DONE IN ORDER TO PURSUE A SOLUTION, AND HE OUTLINED IN SOME DETAIL HIS OWN INITIATIVES: THE PROPOSALS HE HAD MADE AT THE U.N. FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, FOR JOINT U.S.-SOVIET ACTION, AND

FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEASURES; HIS PURSUIT OF A PRIVATE MEETING WITH ECEVIT; AND HIS SUGGESTION FOR A COMPLETELY DEMILITARIZED CYPRUS. KYPRIANOU ASSERTED THAT ECEVIT HAD SCUTTLED A POSSIBLE BILATERAL MEETING BY PROPOSING OTHER FORMULAE THAT HE KNEW WERE UNACCEPTABLE. AT THE SAME TIME HE STRESSED THAT HE HAD BEEN WILLING TO MEET WITH BOTH ECEVIT AND DENKTASH ON THE CONDITION THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS AND DENKTASH AS LEADER OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY.

5. KYPRIANOU COVERED MUCH THE SAME GROUND IN HIS OPENING PRESENTATION BEFORE THE SFRC AS HE HAD BEFORE THE HIRC.

QUESTIONING WAS SOMEWHAT MORE DESULTORY. SENATOR PELL RE-CONFIDENTIAL

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FERRED TO THE IMMINENT RELEASE OF THOSE CONVICTED IN THE DAVIES CASE, AND ASKED WHAT THE GOC PLANNED TO DO. KYPRIANOU NOTED THAT HE HAD ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL TO LOOK INTO POSSIBLE REOPENING OF THE CASE, AND THAT HE WOULD PURSUE THIS FURTHER UPON HIS RETURN TO CYPRUS. (FYI WE UNDERSTAND THAT SENATOR KENNEDY IS ALSO INTERESTED IN WHAT GOC PLANS TO DO WITH THOSE CONVICTED IN DAVIES CASE.) PELL ALSO BROUGHT UP THE INADEQUATE RECOGNITION ACCORDED U.S. ASSISTANCE BY THE GOC, CONTRASTING THIS TO FULSOME CYPRIOT PRAISE FOR NON-EXISTENT SOVIET AID. KYPRIANOU SAID THAT HE HAD DONE HIS BEST FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATION DECISION ON EMBARGO TO DAMPEN ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT ON CYPRUS, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. HE ALSO PROMISED TO GIVE GREATER RECOGNITION TO U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

6. IN COURSE OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ JUNE 11, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL PELAGHIAS SAID THAT KYPRIANOU HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH HIS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT AND HAD APPRECIATED RECEIVING A REAFFIRMATION OF U.S. INTEREST IN HELPING RESOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. CHRISTOPHER

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